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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. 10/790,027  
Applicant John A. GIORDANO et al.  
Filed 2 March 2004  
TC/Art Unit 1616  
Examiner F.I. Choi  
  
Docket No. 48508-00014  
Customer No. 23767

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b)

Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
**Mail Stop AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08A is a listing of documents known to Applicants. The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or is considered to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

As provided in 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(e) and/or M.P.E.P. 609 III(A)(2)(A), copies of the U.S. Patents and the published U.S. Application listed on Form PTO/SB/08A are not being provided as the instant application was filed after June 30, 2003.

The Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the final action under 37 CFR §1.113. Accordingly, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(c)(1), a statement is provided.

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a counterpart International application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information

Disclosure Statement. A copy of the international preliminary examination report is enclosed herewith.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08A be returned in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this paper to undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-1067.

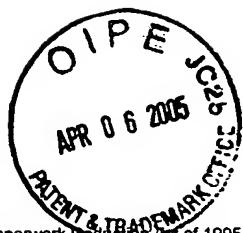
Respectfully submitted,



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6 April 2005

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<p>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</p> <p><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b></p> <p><i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p>		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
		Application Number	10/790,027
		Filing Date	2 March 2004
		First Named Inventor	John A. GIORDANO
		Art Unit	1616
		Examiner Name	F.I. Choi
Sheet <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>		Attorney Docket Number	48508-00014

## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

**Complete if Known**

Application Number 10/790,027

**Filing Date** 2 March 2004

First Named Inventor John A. GIORDANO

Art Unit 1616

Examiner Name E. J. Cho

Sheet 1 of 1 Attorney Docket Number 48508-00014

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number Kind <sup>4</sup> Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

Examiner Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date Considered \_\_\_\_\_

**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Translation is attached.  
This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the complete application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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